

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

-----086192 071341Z /43

R 071150Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9638

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1729

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOS, AG, SS, OAU

SUBJECT: OUTLOOK FOR LUSAKA SUMMIT ON SAHARA

REF: ALGIERS 1672 NOTAL

SUMMARY: GABONESE HAVE DENINED HAVING BEEN HELPFUL
TO POLISARIO DELEGATION AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT LUSAKA
SPECIAL SUMMIT IS FAR FROM A SURE THING. END SUMMARY.

1. EVIDENTLY RESPONDING TO ALGERIAN AND POLISARIO
JUBILATION (REFTWL) OVER OAU DECISION TO CONVENE
SPECIAL SUMMIT ON SAHARA (LIBREVILLE 1718), GABONESE
PRESIDENCY ISSUED COMMUNIQUE JULY 6 YHROUWIG CONSIDERABLE
COLD WATER ON ENTIRE SUBJECT.

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2. COMMUNIQUE OPENS BY RE ALLING HISTORY OF ATTEMPTS
DURING PREVIOUS YEAR TO CONVENE SPECAIAL SUMMIT, WHICH
TWICE FAILE FOR LACK OF QUORU. THUS, COMMUNIQUE
CONTINUES, LIBREVILE SUMMIT ASKED INCOMING CHAIRMAN
(BONGO) AND OAU SYG TO MAKE FRESH EFFORT TO HOLE SPECIAL
SUMMIT ON SAHARA,LUSAKA WAS OFFERED AS VENUE, AND
TARGET DATE OF EARLY OCTOBER WAS CHOSE, HOWEVER,

COMMUNIQUE NOTED, / THIS DECISION TO HOLD SUMMIT AT LUSAKA IN NO WAY PREJUDGES DECISION WHICH MAY BE REACHED ON SUBSTANCE, IF INDEED SUMMIT EVER TAKES PLACE."
COMMUNIQUE ADDS THAT NEITHER MOROCCO NOR MAURITANIA OPPOSED DECISION TO AIM FOR OCTOBER SUMMIT IN LUSAKA, AND THAT BOTH STATES HAD IN FACT SUPPORTED ORIGINAL DECISION AT PORT LOUIS TO CONVENE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT ON SAHARA ISSUE.

3. TURNING TO POLISARIO ROLE, COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT POLISARIO DELEGATION ARRIVED AT LIBREVILLE " IN TRANSIT" ON JULY 5, FINAL DAY OF SUMMIT, AND WERE ASKED BY GOG AUTHORITIES " TO CONTINUE ON THEIR WAY." THUS, COMMUNIQUE NOTES, POLISARIO WAS NOT PRESENT AT SUMMIT AND IN NO WAY INFLUENCED OAU DECISION, NOR IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO ALLEGATIONS THAT GOG SENT SPECIAL AIRCRAFT TO BRING POLISARIO DELEGATION TO LIBREVILLE.

4. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES THAT POLISARIO DECLARATION CONCERNING SUPPOSED DEFEAT FOR MAURITANIA OR MOROCCO REPRESENTS VIEWS OF ITS AUTHORS ALONE AND IN NO WAY ENGAGED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARIAT OF THE OAU."

5. COMMENT: DESPITE FLAT DENIAL IN COMMUNIQUE OF POLISARIO PRESENCE, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT TWO MEN
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POLISARIO DELEGATION, BEARING ALGERIAN PASSPORTS, WAS IN FACT IN LIBREVILLE DURING MOST OF SUMMIT. DELEGATION ARRIVED APPROXIMATELY JULY 3 VIA SPECIAL AIRCRAFT (NOT GABONESE) FROM CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE, AND DID HAVE ACCESS TO OAU DELEGATION SITE TOWN IF NOT IN CONFERENCE HALL, ALTHOUGH THE GABONESE NEVER ISSUED THEM ACCESS BADGES AND ONLY TURNED THEM AWAY AT GATES OF CONFERENCE CENTER.

6. THOUGH DISINGENUOUS ABOUT POLISARIO PRESENCE, COMMUNIQUE APPEARS ACCURATE IN PORTRAYING DECISION TO TRY AGAIN FOR SPECIAL SUMMIT AS ESSENTIALLY NEUTRAL DISPOSITION OF EXCEPTIONALLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE. TONE OF COMMUNIQUE REFLECTING BONGOS OBVIOUS FURY AT ALGERIAN AND POLISARIO CLAIMS OF VICTORY, SUGGESTS NEW OAU CHAIRMAN NOT LIKELY TO EXERT HIMSELF UNDULY TO PRODUCE NEEDED QUORUM FOR LUSAKA SUMMIT. STEIGMAN

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